



Information No. 452 (English)

March 2006

A Question of Trust
The Superior General's Letter to the Congregation
for February 17, 2006

Dear Brother Oblates and Oblate Associates,

On February 17, we celebrate the trust the Church has placed in us. Some 180 years ago, with the pope's approving the little congregation of Saint Eugene, this trust was expressed for the first time on the level of the universal Church. Certainly, that was not the last time. We can find a more recent example in the approval of our current Constitutions and Rules of 1982. On that occasion, Cardinal E. Pironio once again reminded the Oblates of "the specific mission entrusted to them by the Church." (CCRR, p. 14) And then, ten years ago, a new event which greatly enhanced the Church's trust in us was the canonization of our Founder.

Nevertheless, one could say that what is essential had already taken place in 1826. Some weeks ago, while I was chatting with the Superior General of a congregation that is still awaiting the beatification of its founder, he told me that, although they are anxiously looking forward to the beatification, they considered more important the approbation of their institute, something that happened a long time ago. I believe he is correct. In our case too, one could say that the Church recognized the presence of God in a person who is very important for us when it declared our Founder to be a saint; of this we can be proud. But let us not forget that long before that, the Church had recognized the charism present in our entire community, including Saint Eugene, when she approved the institute in 1826.

Therefore, it is good that we continue to celebrate each year the fact that the Church already recognized our charism, ever since the days when the Congregation was setting out to evangelize Southern France. Furthermore, recently we had the blessing of the canonization! But we must not rest on our laurels. Why? Because one must earn and win the trust of the Church again and again!

A year ago, I had an interesting conversation with an Oblate who is bishop in a western country. I reminded him that many congregations, and ours in particular, were founded precisely to help the Church in moments of change and of crisis, similar to what we are living today in a secularized world. Historically, when ordinary pastoral measures were no longer sufficient, there were apostolic congregations to blaze new trails. The bishop acknowledged that to be true, but he revealed to me that among the hierarchy in his country, some are hesitant to ask for this kind of help from religious. According to him, the question of many bishops is this: "Can we trust the religious?"

In our conversation, we did not delve into what could lie behind this question. Could it simply be that they don't know us well? Is it a question of unreliability among religious in diocesan ministries?

Are some religious seen as too much driven by ideologies? Sometimes, besides ideological differences, it can also happen that religious, including the Oblates, think more of their own institutes than of the common good of the Church. Of course, besides the bishops, it would be necessary to listen also to ordinary Christians. Would they make similar observations? That's certainly possible. Whatever the case may be, we need to admit that the vote of confidence the Church gave once upon a time, in our case, 180 years ago, is not enough in itself. It is not enough to have pontifical approbation – the trust of the Church must be earned anew.

There could be peaceful coexistence based on the official approbation, but that is not enough in order to work together in times of crisis. That is a thought that is valid in all situations, since there are crises to be found not only in secularized countries. The reality of being part of a minority group, or of living in situations such as a civil war, can be much more dramatic than secularity. The contribution of a congregation such as ours can be crucial, not only for the faithful, but also for civil society itself. But what is one to do when, in the midst of all this, there is the question, "Can we trust them?"

One could turn the question around. There is a proverb that says: "If you want to have friends, you need to be a friend." If some members of the Church, whether they be bishops or Christian laity, express certain doubts about us, it could worry us and even offend us. But in order to win their friendship, do we ourselves know how to be good friends? Do we ourselves know how to trust other members of the Church, including its leaders, especially if they have a philosophy, a theology or an ecclesiology different from our own? I realize this is a delicate topic. It's true that one cannot impose mutual trust; it can be built only with patience. But one thing is certain: we must do our part.

It does not bother me if someone expresses misgivings about certain trends in the Church, or that we speak out boldly on behalf of the truth denouncing inconsistencies with the Gospel. That can clear the air and level the way for closer cooperation. What bothers me is when our criticism becomes bitter and we no longer expect an improvement in relationships. In the communications media, we hear of many problems and scandals. While objective information is always useful, don't we allow ourselves, at times, to be influenced by the slant with which the information is presented? There is a "worldly" mentality which sees the Church, especially the Catholic Church, as the principal obstacle to freedom and progress. Let us not lose our faith perspective! When there are bitter criticisms among Christians, the question can be asked: would the Founder of the Church want such a climate in the Church?

Saint Eugene loved the Church, even though he was very aware of her weaknesses and had personally suffered because of them. He expressed his belief in this way in 1860: "How is it possible to separate our love for Jesus Christ from that we owe to his Church? These two kinds of love merge: to love the Church is to love Jesus Christ, and vice-versa." (*Selected Texts*, # 51) The Church, according to the imagery of Vatican II, is the people of God on the move, under the guidance of the new Moses; it is also the Body of Christ, and makes the Risen One present in the world – and this applies not to some ideal or non-existent Church, but to the real and human Church, holy and sinful at the same time.

One hundred and eighty years after the pontifical approbation, let us continue building trust! The Church needs us today as much as it did in the days when our Founder wrote the preface to our rules: "The Church earnestly appeals to the ministers whom she herself enrolled in the cause of her divine Spouse, to do all in their power, by word and example, to rekindle the flame of faith that has all but died in the hearts of so many of her children." If there is trust, then we can continue making

our contribution.

And how can we build this mutual trust? By way of conclusion, I would like to suggest some ways, in three steps.

First, we need to be convinced that is worthwhile to make an effort to build trust within the
Church

It is worth the effort because in the Church, we are all in the same boat – we either steer together, sails to the wind, or we find ourselves heading for shipwreck. It is worth the effort also because we can show God’s love to the world only if this love exists first of all among ourselves. If we cannot achieve trust among believers, how can the power of the Risen One work through us? On the other hand, if we show forth the beautiful side of the Church, many will realize what a wonderful thing our faith really is. This is where one encounters the source of every individual vocation, including missionary, priestly and religious vocations.

Secondly, we must live and act in such a way as to earn trust.

For this, it is sufficient to live our vocation. A generous missionary life speaks for itself and at times convinces even the “bad press.” With even more reason, a well-lived missionary life will build and maintain trust in our Congregation on the part of the People of God and its leaders. It was parish missions and work with youth that convinced Pope Leo XII to approve of us, and not the beautiful Latin found in our documents.

In this present age of profound change, this missionary work includes some exceptional difficulties. We must seek ways to reach people who still believe but who have distanced themselves; ways to open dialogue with believers of other religions; ways to encourage reconciliation among different ethnic groups. Nor should we neglect the dimension of critical reflection, including through higher studies.

In all of this, we must be mindful of the community dimension, not only because “what we dream alone will remain always just a dream, but what we dream with others can become reality,” (WAC #7), but also because community life creates an atmosphere of trust within the Church.

Thirdly, it is important to move forward with the explicit intention of building trust within the
Church.

We Oblates are known as men of the Church, and that is an asset with which we can work. Let us learn to be friends with other church groups. Why not be in touch with people who are exploring new models of evangelization and offer our collaboration? Sometimes, we can contribute our own little piece of the picture, for example, by creating “pilot communities” such as mentioned by the last Chapter. (WTH #3)

On February 17, let us celebrate the trust which we enjoy on the part of the Church, remembering that 180 years ago, we received papal approbation and 10 years ago, we were able to rejoice at the canonization of our Fonder. Let us nurture that trust of the Church as a treasure that must always continue to grow. Our very name is a reminder of that February 17, since it is only since papal approbation that we call ourselves Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In Mary, the Church is what it should be: “without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” (Eph. 5:27) With the presence and indis-

pensable assistance of Mary, Mother and co-disciple of each one of us, we will be able to contribute our part in increasing the level of trust in the Church and thus help her to achieve her mission. Happy February 17!

Rome, January 22, 2006

Fr. Guillermo Steckling OMI
Superior General

General Statistics

<u>JANUARY 2006</u>					<u>JANUARY 2005</u>					
Total	Fr.	B1	B2	Schol.		Total	Fr.	B1	B2	Schol
40	33	7			General Admin.	46	39	7		
866	538	64	13	251	Africa-Madagascar	850	539	68	14	229
464	325	29	3	107	Latin America	465	329	31	3	102
662	461	23	6	172	Asia-Oceania	654	453	26	6	169
1056	885	151	1	19	Canada-United States	1092	910	158	1	23
1290	1000	153	4	133	Europe	1303	998	153	4	148
4378	3242	427	27	682	Total	4410	3268	443	28	671

of whom 43 are bishops

of whom 41 are bishops

*In the above table each Oblate is counted in the **Region** to which he belongs. For example, the Oblates in Zambia are counted only in Africa-Madagascar, although they are members of the United States Province. The scholastics in Rome are listed in their home Region. "B1." indicates perpetually professed brothers, and "B2" the brothers who are still in first formation.*

SUMMARY

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January		
	2005	2006	
Cardinal	1	1	
Archbishops	8	11	+ 3
Bishops	32	31	- 1
Prefects Apostolic	2	2	
Priests	3225	3197	- 28
Brothers with perpetual vows	443	427	- 16
Brothers with temporary vows	28	27	- 1
Scholastics with perpetual vows	121	98	- 23
Scholastics with temporary vows	550	584	+ 34
Total number of Oblates	4410	4378	- 32

**PERSONNEL BY UNIT LEVEL
JANUARY 2006**

The next table shows the number of Oblates according to the Unit to which they belong. For example, all the Oblates attached to the Zambia Delegation are listed there, even though they are juridically members of the United States Province, or may be temporarily living elsewhere. Some of the Zambian scholastics are in Cedara, others in the U.S. etc.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

	<u>Card.</u>	<u>Ar.Bp.</u>	<u>Bp.</u>	<u>Pr.Ap.</u>	<u>Fr.</u>	<u>Br.</u>	<u>Br.T</u>	<u>Fr.T</u>	<u>Sc.P.</u>	<u>Sc.T.</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
	0	0	0	0	33	7	0	0	0	0	40
Total:	0	0	0	0	33	7	0	0	0	0	40

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

	<u>Card.</u>	<u>Ar.Bp.</u>	<u>Bp.</u>	<u>Pr.Ap.</u>	<u>Fr.</u>	<u>Br.</u>	<u>Br.T</u>	<u>Fr.T</u>	<u>Sc.P.</u>	<u>Sc.T.</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Angola	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
Botswana	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	7
Cameroon	0	0	4	0	75	10	7	0	4	20	120
Central S. A.	0	0	2	0	43	2	0	0	2	5	54
Congo	0	0	1	0	81	14	2	0	5	40	143
Kenya	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	8	12
Lesotho	0	1	1	0	85	21	0	0	6	39	153
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	30	3	0	0	0	19	52
Namibia	0	1	2	0	29	7	1	0	0	8	48
Natal	0	2	0	0	53	2	0	0	2	11	70
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	2	16	25
Northern S. A.	0	1	1	0	52	1	0	0	1	5	61
Qwa-Qwa	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Sahara	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Senegal	0	0	0	0	23	1	1	0	5	5	35
Zambia	0	0	1	0	20	1	0	1	2	29	54
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	13	20
Total:	0	5	12	1	519	64	13	1	30	221	866

LATIN AMERICA

	<u>Card.</u>	<u>Ar.Bp.</u>	<u>Bp.</u>	<u>Pr.Ap.</u>	<u>Fr.</u>	<u>Br.</u>	<u>Br.T</u>	<u>Fr.T</u>	<u>Sc.P.</u>	<u>Sc.T.</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Argentina-Chile	0	0	0	0	45	1	0	0	1	1	48
Baja California	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	5
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	22	9	0	0	2	6	39
Brazil	0	0	0	0	47	6	0	0	1	9	63
Central Brazil	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	2	14
Colombia	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	3	9
Cuba	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
French Guyana	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	5	14
Haiti	0	1	1	0	56	7	2	0	15	38	120
Mexico	0	0	0	0	36	1	0	0	2	3	42
Paraguay	0	0	1	0	25	2	0	0	2	8	38
Peru	0	0	0	0	19	2	1	0	2	6	30

Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Venezuela	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	10
Total:	0	1	3	0	321	29	3	0	26	81	464

ASIA-OCEANIA

	<u>Card.</u>	<u>Ar.Bp.</u>	<u>Bp.</u>	<u>Pr.Ap.</u>	<u>Fr.</u>	<u>Br.</u>	<u>Br.T</u>	<u>Fr.T</u>	<u>Sc.P.</u>	<u>Sc.T.</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Australia	0	0	0	0	50	1	0	0	0	2	53
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	17	0	0	0	2	10	30
China	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	12
Colombo	0	0	1	0	109	12	1	0	10	27	160
India	0	0	0	0	38	0	4	0	1	30	73
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	4	40
Jaffna	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	1	43	104
Japan	0	0	0	0	23	1	0	0	1	0	25
Korea	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	6
Pakistan	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	0	0	12	26
Philippines	0	1	1	0	74	8	1	0	1	17	103
Thailand	0	0	1	0	17	1	0	0	1	8	28
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total:	0	1	4	1	455	23	6	0	17	155	662

CANADA-UNITED STATES

	<u>Card.</u>	<u>Ar.Bp.</u>	<u>Bp.</u>	<u>Pr.Ap.</u>	<u>Fr.</u>	<u>Br.</u>	<u>Br.T</u>	<u>Fr.T</u>	<u>Sc.P.</u>	<u>Sc.T.</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Assumption	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	2	1	47
Grandin	0	0	0	0	29	8	0	0	0	0	37
Lacombe	0	3	4	0	180	20	0	0	0	2	209
Manitoba	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
N.D.-du-Cap	0	0	4	0	206	84	0	0	0	2	296
Saint Paul's	0	0	1	0	27	4	0	0	0	0	32
Saint Peter's	0	0	0	0	16	4	0	0	0	0	20
United States	1	1	1	0	365	28	1	0	2	10	409
Total:	1	4	10	0	870	151	1	0	4	15	1056

EUROPE

	<u>Card.</u>	<u>Ar.Bp.</u>	<u>Bp.</u>	<u>Pr.Ap.</u>	<u>Fr.</u>	<u>Br.</u>	<u>Br.T</u>	<u>Fr.T</u>	<u>Sc.P.</u>	<u>Sc.T.</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Anglo-Irish	0	0	0	0	98	8	0	0	0	0	106
Austria/Czech	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Belgium/Nether.	0	0	0	0	113	22	0	0	0	0	135
Belarus	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
France	0	0	0	0	172	31	0	0	4	13	220
France & Benelux	0	0	0	0	42	5	0	0	0	0	47
Germany	0	0	1	0	105	32	0	0	1	4	143
Italia	0	0	1	0	135	12	0	0	0	8	156
Lourdes	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Poland	0	0	0	0	216	31	4	0	16	74	341
Romania	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	6	11
Scandinavia	0	0	0	0	23	2	0	0	0	0	25
Spain	0	0	0	0	30	7	0	0	0	3	40

Ukraine	0	0	0	0	27	3	0	0	0	4	34
Total:	0	0	2	0	998	153	4	0	21	112	1290
Total:	1	11	31	2	3196	427	27	1	98	584	4378

Legenda: Card=Cardinal; Ar.Bp.=ArchBishop; Bp.=Bishop; Pr.Ap.=Prefect Apostolic; Fr.=Father; Br.=Brother; Br.T.=Brother with temp. vows; Fr.T.=Father without Oblation No.; Sc.P.=Scolastics with perp. vows; Sc.T.= Scolastics with temp. vows

Perpetual Oblations 2005

(2002: 5 scholastics; 2005: 49 scholastics and 1 brother)

Obl. No.	Name	Province	Date	Diocese of Origin
14008	Tente Augustine Tseliso	Lesotho	25.01.2002	Maseru
14009	Lekhara Tieli Emmanuel	Lesotho	25.01	Qacha's Nek
14010	Moeti Moeketsi Andrew	Lesotho	25.01	Qacha's Nek
14011	Pharoe Itumeleng Augustine	Lesotho	25.01	Bethlehem
14012	Mosenye Vincent Tanki	Lesotho	25.01	Qacha's Nek
14013	Gunthamala Jesuratnam	Colombo	10.01.2005	Kurnool
14014	Siddottam Arokiaraj	Colombo	10.01	Madras-Mylapore
14015	Arokiasamy Gregory	Colombo	10.01	Vellore
14016	Kulanthai Arulsamy John S.	Colombo	10.01	Thanjavur
14017	Tjotjela Leonard Tjotjela	Lesotho	25.01	Maseru
14018	Bereng Lebohang Clement	Lesotho	25.01	Mohale's Hoek
14019	Paoane Joseph Matsietse	Lesotho	25.01	Mohale's Hoek
14020	Terai Sello Michael	Lesotho	21.01	Maseru
14021	Oléa Tinoco Hipolito	Mexico	16.02	Mexico
14022	Kalumba Valentine	U.S./Zambia	20.02	Ndola
14023	Romero Alain Ivan Heredia	Bolivia	17.02	Potosí
14024	Lopez Jose L. Fuentes	Bolivia	17.02	Oruro
14025	Langlet Jacques	France	02.04	Cambrai
14026	Zorilla Julio	Argent.-Chili	29.05	Buenos Aires
14027	Somphone Vilavongsy Peter	Thailand	26.06	Vientiane
14028	Sene Victor Damien	Italy/Senegal	04.09	Dakar
14029	Sene Andre Boucar	Italy/Senegal	04.09	Kaolack
14030	Ndene André Maurice	Italy/Senegal	04.09	Dakar
14031	Awusieke Jovita Chibueze	Camer./Niger	.04.09	Okigwe
14032	Chiambon Joseph	Cameroun	04.09	Bamenda
14033	Ingele Frédéric	Congo	04.09	Idiofa
14034	Eyer Berthier	Congo	04.09	Idiofa
14035	Jezak Andrzej	Poland	08.09	Elblag
14036	Wieczorek Florian	Poland	08.09	Opole
14037	Szfranski Tomasz	Poland	08.09	Krakow
14038	Bytner Rafal	Poland	08.09	Elblag
14039	Tomczak Michal	Poland	08.09	Opole
14040	Kupczak Rafal	Poland	08.09	Siedlce
14041	Kubalski Wieslaw	Poland	08.09	Siedlce
14042	Forajter Szymon	Poland	08.09	Katowice
14043	Zietkowski Krzysztof	Poland	08.09	Opole
14044	Furukawa Dominic Kenichi	Japan	05.10	Osaka
14045	Lopez Rodel	Philippines	18.06	Manila
14046	Rojas Britez Eliodoro César	Paraguay	01.10	Caacupé

14047	Rozario Dominic Badal	Col./Bangla.	17.09	Rajshani
14048	Gomes Sudhir Jacob	Col./Bangla.	17.09	Rajshani
14049	Nowak Piotr Peter	Assumption	05.12	Legnica
14050	Chambers James Patrick	U.S. Prov.	19.11	Belleville
14051	Rakotomalala Alfred	Pol/Madag.	30.10	Antsirabe
14052	Ratelolahy Jean Marco	Pol/Madag.	30.10	Majung
14053	Ravelomampisandraibe Alfred	Pol/Madag.	30.10	Fianarantsoa
14054	Ramiadamanana Jean Emmanuel	Pol/Madag.	30.10	Antananarivo
14055	Altamirano Peter	Lacombe	08.12	Lima
14056	Andrews Joseph M. Selvam	Col./India	03.12	Madras-Mylapore
14057	Arokiasamy Rayappan	Col./India	03.12	Vellore
14058	Lenadimai Benedict	Col./India	03.12	Kottar
14059	Pragasam Yesuraj	Col./India	03.12	Salem
14060	Salakundala Basil	Col./India	03.12	Madras-Mylapore
14061	Suvikkin Kaspar Raj	Col./India	03.12	Kumbakkonam
14062	Bassene Etienne Megna (Bro.)	Italy/Senegal	31.12	Ziguinchor

Obediences 2005

Asterisk () = First obedience*

Date	Name	Origin	Destination
06.01	Andrasz Pawel (Fr.)	Grandin	OMI Lacombe Canada
06.01	Boudreau Philippe (Fr.)	Grandin	OMI Lacombe Canada
06.01	Doherty Peter (Fr.)	Grandin	OMI Lacombe Canada
06.01	Kavanagh Francis (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
06.01	Quinn Vaughan (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
20.01	*Figaj Marcin (Sc.)	Poland	Espagne
20.01	*Furman Piotr (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
20.01	Nazaruk Wieslaw (Fr.)	Grandin	Poland
20.01	Dybala Damian (Fr.)	Poland	Italy/Uruguay
22.01	*Mollo Radomiro (Fr.)	Bolivia	Bolivia
22.01	*Mosemedi Lukas (Sc.)	Namibia	Namibia
22.01	*Diakanou Jean-Marie (Bro.)	Cameroun	Cameroun
22.01	*Tampane Clement R. (Sc.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
22.01	*Pharoe Augustine I. (Sc.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
22.01	*Lekhara Emmanuel T. (Sc.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
22.01	*Moleko Tshidiso E. (Sc.)	Central S.A.	Central S.A.
09.02	Kowalewski Wojciech (Fr.)	Cameroun	France
09.02	*Skhosana Mandla (Sc.)	Northern S.A.	Northern S.A.
09.02	*Langlet Jacques (Bro.)	France	France
09.02	*Morinat Philippe (Sc.)	France	France
09.02	*Moeti Moeketsi A. (Sc.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
12.02	Wilk Mariusz (Fr.)	Poland	Lacombe/Kenya
12.02	Mubesala Baudouin (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	Congo
12.02	Ripoche André (Fr.)	Cameroun	France
12.02	Thierry Philippe (Fr.)	Cameroun	France
12.02	Orzechowski Tadeusz (Bro.)	Cameroun	Poland/Del. Polonaise
01.03	*Bewa Paulin (Sc.)	Cameroun	Cameroun
01.03	*Nkengue Jean-Marie (Sc.)	Cameroun	Cameroun
01.03	Koloch Piotr (Fr.)	Austria-Czech Rep.	Poland

08.03	Cousineau Gérard (Fr.)	Lesotho	N.D.-du-CAP
10.03	McSheffrey Edward (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Joachimpillai Christie (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Kelly Richard (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Jarvo Wayne (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Hattie Joseph (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Martinez de Pison Ramon (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Perrin David (Fr.)	St. Peter's	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Jayawardhana Brian (Fr.)	Grandin	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Dowling Jerome (Fr.)	Grandin	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Laboucane Garry (Fr.)	Grandin	OMI Lacombe Canada
10.03	Johnson Jacques (Fr.)	Grandin	OMI Lacombe Canada
19.03	Jeyasingham Victor (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	Italy
19.03	Van Ryckeghem Marcos (Bro.)	Bolivia	Holland-Flanders
22.03	*Joseph Juvanal K. (Sc.)	Jaffna	Jaffna
22.03	*Conghe Saveri J. (Sc.)	Jaffna	Jaffna
31.03	*Ratovonirina François de Sales(Sc.)	Poland/Madag.	Poland/Madagascar
31.03	*Randriamahefa Arsène (Sc.)	Poland/Madag.	Poland/Madagascar
31.03	*Rabemanantsoa Jean Pascal (Sc.)	Poland/Madag.	Poland/Madagascar
31.03	*Burdzy Mieczyslaw (Sc.)	Assumption	Assumption
31.03	Rausch Clyde (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	Gen. House
04.04	Azrak Mario (Fr.)	Australia	Lacombe/Kenya
04.04	Douglas Sholto (Fr.)	Australia	Lacombe/Kenya
04.04	Siluvai Adimai V. (Fr.)	Australia/China	Colombo/India
06.04	Bucca Antonino (Fr.)	Italy	Gen. House
07.04	Houssais Edmond (Fr.)	Cameroun	France
06.05	*Mucka Jiri (Sc.)	Austria-Czech Rep.	Austria-Czech Rep.
06.05	*Davis Karl Cheston (Sc.)	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
06.05	Canelle Léon (Fr.)	Cameroun	France
06.05	Bouchard Lucien (Fr.)	Indonesia	U.S.A.
06.05	Hebting André (Fr.)	Indonesia	France
06.05	*Tran Van Hanh (Sc.)	OMI Lacombe	OMI Lacombe Canada
06.05	*D'Amore Antonio (Fr.)	Italy	Italy
06.05	*Migliaccio Sabatino (Sc.)	Italy	Italy
12.05	*Rosinski Marcin (Sc.)	Poland	Assumption
19.05	*Dube Christopher S.(Sc.)	Natal	Natal/Zimbabwe
24.05	Keradec Bernard (Fr.)	Indonesia	France
29.05	Dessureault Marc (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	N.D.-du-CAP
29.05	Gioppato Piergiovanni (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	Assumption
29.05	*Ince Merlin Keith (Fr.)	Natal	Natal
29.05	*Madlala Muzi (Fr.)	Natal	Natal
29.05	*Serrano Sergio (Fr.)	Argent.-Chili	Argent.-Chile
29.05	Szmydki Ryszard (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	Poland
01.06.	*Wasiliew Aleksander (Sc.)	Poland	Poland/Ukraine
01.06	*Stronczewski Artur (Sc.)	Poland	Poland/Ukraine
01.06	*Sypion Tomasz (Sc.)	Poland	Australia/China
01.06	*Pisarek Marek (Sc.)	Poland	Poland/Belarus
01.06	*Baranski Boguslaw (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
01.06	*Figura Dariusz (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
01.06	*Krzywniak Rafal (Sc.)	Poland	Poland

01.06	*Motyka Marcin (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
01.06	*Osowski Piotr (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
01.06	*Kopyto Damian (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
01.06	*Mamani Calixto (Fr.)	Bolivia	Bolivia
01.06	*Nnabuife Cornelius (Sc.)	Cameroun	Cameroun
01.06	*Koye Expédit V.(Sc.)	Cameroun	Cameroun
01.06	*Nani Raymond P. (Sc.)	Cameroun	Cameroun
01.06	*Bouba Todou Alexis (Sc.)	Cameroun	Cameroun
01.06	Iyo Iyan Daquin (Fr.)	Congo	Lacombe/Kenya
01.06	Munkiele Merankiel F. (Fr.)	Congo	Lacombe/Kenya
03.06	Dosquet Benoit (Bro.)	Belgium-South	France
14.06	*Kurzydlo Wojciech (Sc.)	Poland	Assumption
14.06	*Sadowski Pawel (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
15.06	*Lacki Marcin (Sc.)	Poland	Lacombe/Kenya
23.06	Towe Patrick (Fr.)	Anglo-Irish	Central S.A.
23.06	LaFramboise Ronald (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	U.S.A.
23.06	Allen James (Fr.)	U.S.A.	Gen. Administration
23.06	Rolheiser Ronald (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	OMI Lacombe Can.
08.07	*Busaka Abiokele B. (Sc.)	Congo	Congo
08.07	*Mabanda Afu Paulin (Sc.)	Congo	Congo
11.07	*Lesalo Azael Katiba (Sc.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
20.08	*Wheatley Donovan (Sc.)	Natal	Natal/Zimbabwe
20.08	*Ngcobo Mxolisi Rudolph P. (Sc.)	Natal	Natal
26.08	*Fernando Lakshman Chryshantha(Sc.)	Colombo	Colombo
26.08	*Fernando Anthony N. (Sc.)	Colombo	Colombo
26.08	*Gunasekera Suranga I. (Sc.)	Colombo	Colombo
26.08	*Jayamaha Dileepa S. (Sc.)	Colombo	Colombo
26.08	Jesunesan Philipiphah (Fr.)	Gen. Adm.	OMI Lacombe Can.
26.08	Luszczki Sebastian (Fr.)	Spain/Sahara	Poland
26.08	Ngoma Ndewes Jean-Claude(Fr.)	Congo	Mexico
26.08	Paul Jeevendra (Fr.)	Jaffna	Gen. Administration
26.08	*Perera Ajith Ruwan (Sc.)	Colombo	Colombo
11.10	Feeley Paul (Fr.)	Peru	OMI Lacombe Canada
11.10.	Gnanapragasam Edmund (Fr.)	Jaffna	Namibia
11.10	*Somphone Vilavongsy (Sc.)	Thailand	Thailand
11.10	Martinez Joaquin (Fr.)	Spain	Gen. Administration
11.10	Quatra Marcello (Fr.)	Spain/Venezuela	Spain/Venezuela
11.10	Wieland Erich (Fr.)	Paraguay	Germany
11.10	*Gunthamala Jesuratnam (Fr.)	India	India
11.10	*Kulanthai Arulsamy John S. (Fr.)	India	India
11.10	*Siddottam Arokiaraj (Fr.)	India	India
11.10	*Kalumba Valentine (Sc.)	U.S.A./Zambia	U.S.A./Zambia
13.10	*Tente Augustine T. (Fr.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
07.11	*Boston Elmer (Fr.)	Philippines	Philippines
07.11	*De la Cruz Julito Jr. (Fr.)	Philippines	Philippines
07.11	*Lefatle Emmanuel (Sc.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
07.11	*Mosenye Vincent T. (Sc.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
07.11	*Rensburg Charles (Sc.)	Natal/Zimbabwe	Natal/Zimbabwe
07.11	Solas Miguel Angel (Fr.)	Italie/Uruguay	Spain
22.11	Lesmerises Robert (Fr.)	(Grandin) Lacombe	N.D.-du-Cap

22.11	*Thiaw Marcel (Fr.)	Italie/Senegal	Italie/Senegal
22.11	Musil Roman (Fr.)	Austria-Czech Rep.	Haiti
29.11	*Gicalao Ronnie (Sc.)	Philippines	Australia/China
30.11	Strzyzewski Rafal (Fr.)	Poland	Poland/Ukraine

Oblates in First Formation

(as of 31 December 2005)

Year	Novices	Scholastics	Bros. in formation	First vows	Perpetual vows	Ordinations
2005	116**	682	27	121	50	63
2004	138	671	28	129	66	63
2003	154	643	36	132	67	63
2002	159	657	29	130	78	76
2001	159	622	34	112	68	59
2000	130	638	41	114	60	59
1998	161	587	47	163	73	46
1996	131	560	42	141	56	69
1994	131	546	38	122	66	59
1992	174	515	55	116	70	71

Totals for 2005 include 2 Brothers who made first vows and 1 Brother who made perpetual oblation.

***The number of novices is NOT COMPLETE because some units did not send their report. Of those reported, 8 are Brother novices.*

Deaths and Departures

Deaths in 2005 : 94 (81 priests, 13 brothers)

2004: 113 2003: **102** 2002: **121** 2001: **101** 2000: **121** 1999: **116** 1998: **115** 1997: **118**

Departures in 2005: 60** (8 priests, 48 scholastics, 4 brothers)

2004 : 52 (3 priests, 48 scholastics, 1 brother)

2003 : 89 (15 priests, 69 scholastics, 5 brothers)

2002 : 75 (14 priests, 59 scholastics, 2 brothers)

2001 : 84 (20 priests, 59 scholastics, 5 brothers)

** 3 scholastics did not renew temporary vows in 2002 and 2004, but it was not reported until 2005.

-44 scholastics and 1 brother did not renew their temporary vows.

-4 scholastics were granted a dispensation from temporary vows by the Superior General.

-3 brothers were granted a dispensation from perpetual vows.

-4 priests were dismissed from the Congregation.

-3 priests were laicized.

-1 priest was definitively incardinated into a diocese.

The Holy See granted the following dispensations:

- 3 laicizations with dispensation from celibacy
- 1 transfer to the diocesan clergy
- 3 dispensations from perpetual vows

Latin America

BRAZIL

Learning to live with fear

Fr. Roberto de VALICOURT, a French Oblate, who for many years has been serving the Church in Brazil, lives in Belém where he ministers to thousands of poor families in so-called "invasion" areas, Aura and Carlos Marighella. There he has encountered the dangers with which the poor people must live their daily lives.

Between Aura and Carlos Marighella there is a street that is extremely dangerous because of a famous gang. They are youngsters from several streets and neighbourhoods of Ananindeua who come together to sell drugs and rob people. It is called "13th Street" or the "Street of Terror." Several times each week there is crossfire between gangs or between gangs and the police.

Anderson, a dangerous hoodlum aged 14, was murdered by another gang. Pinochio, 18 years old, was tortured and murdered too. They literally cut him to pieces. The next gang leader was Ferdinando, the "blond devil," 17 years old, at one time in prison in Funcap for assaults and murders. He escaped and I was able to chat with him. He assured me that he would like to move away. But as leader of a gang, he felt connected.

One Sunday when I was out on the street after some visits, he was sitting on the sidewalk. When I passed by, he greeted me. It was the beginning of a friendship. But friendship grows slowly. It's something like that of the Little Prince and the fox.

As soon as I had left, three boys from another gang came along and invited him to take a beer

with them in the neighborhood. But they deceived him. They stabbed him in the back. He ran into an Assembly of God church. The pastor helped him to sit down. But the other three ran into the church and stabbed him to death. He died in the church.

I wanted to cry. Is it possible to cultivate a friendship with a "bandit?"

The residents of 13th Street take their children to sleep on another street to avoid stray bullets. That's when I resolved to do something. Are we Oblates not called to difficult missions? But what was there to do?

I began to visit the families and we organized a celebration. In commenting on the Gospel, I challenged the people to transform the "Street of Terror" into the "Street of Peace." The mothers asked me to do something for the children who had grown accustomed to violence and drugs. They invited ten children; 45 showed up! Where could we gather?

I decided to rent an abandoned house. The owner of the house had killed his wife in July because of jealousy and he had fled. It has a big yard with trees that give abundant shade. I invited a young Franciscan Sister of St. Joseph to help me, as well as the little choir from the parish in Marambaia. It was their "baptism by fire!" They were frightened to death. But they talked and joked with the children and adolescents and everything turned out fine.

But conquering fear is complicated! My Oblate community does not let me sleep in that house because it is not safe. One day the police paid me a visit. With their usual delicacy, they broke the locks, thinking I was hiding drugs in the house.

The neighbors protested and the police left.

The mothers told me that the young drug traffickers have decided to move from the area. The families are bringing their children home to sleep.

They are beginning to overcome their fear. Someone suggested that we put a sign on the entry to the street that is so infamous in the whole city: a new name – The Street of Peace. However, the war is not won with a single battle.

Books

BORZAGA, Mario (Italy). Diario di un uomo felice. (*Diary of a Happy Man*). This is the actual diary of Fr. Mario Borzaga, OMI, from 1956 until his death in Laos in 1960 at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. A reprint of the 1985 edition. Vita Trentina Editrice, Trento, 2005. 745pp.

CHOQUE Charles (Lacombe) Ataatatsiaraluk – Journal du Grand Nord (*Diary of the Great North*). The story of the evangelization efforts of Bishop Arsène TURQUETIL among the Inuit people of northern Canada. Novalis. Ottawa, 2005, 290 pp.

CICCONI, Renato (Italy): Cento anni di vita dei Missionari Oblati nella città di Maddaloni. (*One Hundred Years of the Life of the Missionary Oblates in the City of Maddaloni*). The story of 100 years of Oblate presence in a town in the southern part of Italy in the province of Caserta. It is also rich in recounting the story of the Oblates as missionaries to the Eskimos, as well as in Laos, Senegal, Uruguay, Indonesia, and Romania. Editrice Missioni OMI, S. Maria a Vico, 2005, 316 pp.

Citarella M. Rosaria and Storella Ada (Italy) Il Carisma Missionario delle COMI nel pensiero del Fondatore P. Gaetano Liuzzo OMI. (*The Missionary Charism of COMI in the thought of the Founder, Fr. Gaetano Liuzzo OMI*). A small booklet on the charism of the Secular Institute founded by Fr. Liuzzo, the Cooperatrici Oblate Missionarie dell'Immacolata. 138 pp.

Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay: Psalms. Inuit and English translation of the Book of Psalms. Includes translations by Théophile DIDIER and Robert LECHAT. Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay, 2005, 172 pp.

FLAVIN, James (USA). St. Stephen's Gate. Calling upon the experience of his over 40 years in ministry, this Oblate author focuses his writing on two principal themes: the Hispanic presence in the Church in the United States and a comparison of religious education in Protestant and Catholic parishes. Unity Street Books, Milton, MA., 2005, 141 pp.

GAUTHIER Roger (N.D.-du-Cap) J'ai fini d'avoir peur de Dieu (*I've stopped being afraid of God*). The author tells of how he has been freed from the image of a terrifying God, an omnipotent and demanding God, so that he could approach a God who, as a Father, uses his power in service of his love for his child. Éditions Fides. Québec, 2005, 128 pp.

Gheddo, Piero. Marcello Zago, Una vita per la Missione (*Marcello Zago, a Life for the Mission*). A long-time personal friend of the late Superior General of the Oblates wrote this brief biography of Archbishop Marcello Zago, OMI. He recounts the passion that Marcello had for the mission of the Church, from his entry in to the minor seminary at age 12 until his untimely death in 2001. Editrice Provincia d'Italia dei Missionari OMI: Roma, 2005, 133 pp.

O'DONOVAN, Richard (Anglo-Irish). Mary of Nazareth. Subtitle: *Prefigured in Old Testament Times and Post-Figured in New Testament Times*. The author goes through the list of women who figure prominently in the Bible, pointing out their important role in the unfolding of sacred history, and leading eventually to the New Eve, Mary of Nazareth. Privately printed. 223pp.

PARRETTA Nicola (Italy) Il Canto delle Nozze di Dio Amore (*The Wedding Song of the God who*

is Love) A series of meditations on the sustaining presence of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian. There is also a section of meditations on the motherly presence of Mary. Centro Agape. Messina, 2005, 125 pp.

PEREZ Leopoldo and Davis Kenneth (USA) Preaching the Teaching. A compilation of texts by various authors meant to help the preacher proclaim the social justice teaching of the Church to an Hispanic congregation in such a way as to instruct and motivate. University of Scranton Press. Scranton, 2005, 229 pp.

PIELORZ, Józef (France-Benelux): Martyrologium Polskich Oblatów 1939-1945. (*A Polish Oblate Martyrology 1939-1945*). The story of the Polish Oblates who, during the Second World War, were deported to

concentration camps, killed while under arrest, shot, or who simply died because of the war. Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Theology: Studies and Texts, Poznań, 2005, 435 pp.

VYSHKOVSKYY Pavlo (Ukraine Delegation) La Testimonianza di Fede della Chiesa romana cattolica in Ucraina durante la persecuzione comunista 1917-1991 (*The Witness of Faith of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine during the Communist Persecution 1917-1991*). The first Ukrainian Oblate of Mary Immaculate describes the brutal yet unsuccessful efforts of the communist regime to wipe out the Catholic faith in Ukraine. Dissertation for the doctorate in spiritual theology submitted to the Pontifical Teresianum Institute of Spirituality. Rome, 2005, 465 pp.

Anniversaries - April 2006

60 years of priesthood

1946.04.07	07103	Fr. Antonio Gentile	Italy
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50 years of priesthood

1956.04.15	08748	Fr. Joseph Kane	Saint Peter's
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25 years of priesthood

1981.04.11	12323	Fr. Patrick L. Perera	Colombo
1981.04.25	12374	Fr. Antonino Bucca	General Adm.
1981.04.25	12372	Fr. Raffaele Grasso	Italy

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Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 4-13

NAME	PROVINCE	BIRTH	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. Ernest Ruch	France	11/04/1928	Metz	05/01/2006
Fr. Réal Paiement	N.D.-du-Cap	09/10/1919	Richelieu	07/01/2006
Fr. Michel Berche	France	22/03/1930	Nice	13/01/2006
Fr. Edward Lowney	USA	13/05/1930	Tewksbury	20/01/2006
Bro. Gérard Drolet	N.D.-du-Cap	07/04/1919	Richelieu	26/01/2006
Fr. Gérard Morin	N.D.-du-Cap	17/09/1920	Ottawa	27/01/2006
Fr. Léon Fautray	Belgique-Pay Bas	28/04/1922	Mesnil St. Blaise	28/01/2006
Fr. S. Arulnesan Nicholapillai	Jaffna	18/09/1912	Colombo	03/02/2006
Fr. Donald Joseph Pruner	St. Peter's	29/09/1926	St. Boniface	04/02/2006
Fr. John Connally	Natal	30/12/1931	Port Shepstone	05/02/2006

“We will keep alive the memory of our deceased and not fail to pray for them, faithfully offering the suffrages prescribed on their behalf.” (const. 43)